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PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

DECLARATION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.132

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of:

Hitoshi IWASAKA et al.

Serial No: 09/930,159 Group Art Unit: 3749

Confirmation No. 1497

Filed: August 16, 2001 Examiner: RINEHART, KENNETH

For: NON-CONTACTING CONVEYANCE EQUIPMENT

DECLARATION UNDER RULE 132

Commissioner for Patents
PO Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

I, Hideyuki Tokunaga, declare as follows:

1. I am skilled and knowledgeable in the field of non-contacting conveyance equipment by virtue of 6 years of work experience in the relevant field. I also possess 1 year(s) of work experience in the analysis software field. Furthermore, I am an industrial high school graduate and I am currently studying Mechanical Engineering.

2. I have reviewed the specification and claims of the above-identified patent application. I have also reviewed USSR patent document 1,137,367.

3. I find that USSR patent document 1,137,367 does not teach a centering mechanism to vary the radial distance of the centering protrusions from the center of the non-contacting conveyance equipment, as recited, for example, in claim 45 of the above-identified patent application.

4. I find that as a result of these claimed features, the invention of claim 45 of the above-identified patent application is advantageous as compared to USSR patent document 1,137,367. Specifically, the varied radial distance provides a more

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stable control of the lateral movement of the object.

5. Due to these advantages, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claim 45 would not have been obvious in light of the cited references to one of ordinary skill in the art.

6. I find that USSR patent document 1,137,367 does not teach a chamfered edge and concave opening in a tapered shape, as recited, for example, in claims 39 and 40 of the above-identified patent application.

7. I find that as a result of these claimed features, the invention of claims 39 and 40 is advantageous as compared to USSR patent document 1,137,367. Specifically, the chamfered edge and concave opening in a tapered shape facilitate outflow of air from a concave opening.

8. Due to these advantages, it is respectfully submitted that the invention of claims 39 and 40 would not have been obvious in light of the cited references to one of ordinary skill in the art.

The Declaration further states that the above statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like are punishable by fine and/or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that any such willful false statement may jeopardize the validity of this application or any patent resulting therefrom.

By: Hideyuki Tokunaga
Hideyuki Tokunaga

Date: April 2, 2007